

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, the paragraph numbered 0036 has been amended to avoid the new matter objection raised by the Examiner, although Applicants believe the previously proposed amendment is still supported by Figure 6.

Claims 2-18 remain in the application. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been cancelled.

Allowable Claims/Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated the subject matter of claims 2, 5-6 and former claim 19 are patentable, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitation of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 2 to incorporate the recitation of claim 1 from which it formerly depended. A few additional changes have been made to improve its clarity. Claim 2 is thus believed to now be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-17 of the present application, as presently amended, all depend from claim 2 and are thus also allowable on at least that basis.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to include the recitation of former claim 19, indicated to be allowable if in independent form. Accordingly, claim 18 is now in condition for allowance.

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge

any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Gregory V. Bean at 607-974-2698

Respectfully submitted,



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